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AN ADMIRER COLLEAGUE IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW

William T. Hart*

The dedication of an issue of the *Washington Law Review* to my friend and former colleague, Professor and Associate Dean Robert S. Hunt, provides me with an opportunity to relate his contribution to the law firm of Schiff Hardin & Waite in Chicago.

Bob Hunt likes to describe himself as from a small town in Iowa; the son of a country lawyer. While this is true (with credit to a small town and a fine country lawyer) he also came to the firm of Schiff Hardin & Waite¹ in 1950 with a distinguished academic record. He was a graduate of Oberlin College (A.B. 1937), Harvard University (M.A. 1940), and the Yale Law School (LL.B. 1947). He completed graduate work in legal-economic history at the University of Wisconsin (S.J.D. 1952), where he was a Rockefeller Research Fellow in Law. Later he became an Assistant Professor of Law at the State University of Iowa.² Professor Willard Hurst, the legal historian, recommended Bob Hunt to the firm.

A law firm's character is derived from a number of sources, including, most notably, its background and the personalities of its lawyers, the nature of the practice, and the goals of the lawyers.³ During the late fifties and the

* United States District Judge, Northern Illinois, 1982; J.D., Loyola University School of Law 1951; Schiff Hardin & Waite, 1959-1982.

1. Schiff Hardin & Waite, previously Pam, Hurd & Reichmann, traces its history to 1853 with the founding of the firm of Judah, Reichmann, Trumbull, Cox & Stern. Colonel Nobel Brandon Judah was an American ambassador to Cuba. This firm developed an outstanding reputation in real estate law.

After Max Pam was admitted to practice in Illinois in 1886, the firm of Moses, Pam & Kennedy was founded. This firm in the eighteen-nineties represented the American Steel and Wire Company, American Steel Foundries, International Nickel Company, United States Steel Corporation, Allis-Chalmers Company, and the International Harvester Company. Pam was also counsel for E.H. Harriman, Chicago Title and Trust Company, and Central Trust Company of Illinois. In 1904, Max Pam, together with his brother Hugo Pam, formed a partnership with Harry B. Hurd.

In 1939, Pam & Hurd merged with Judah, Reichmann, Trumbull, Cox & Stern to form the firm of Pam, Hurd & Reichmann. The name of the firm was later updated to Dallstream, Schiff, Hardin, Waite & Stern. In the 1970's, the present name was adopted.

Currently, the firm has 161 lawyers practicing law in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C.

2. During this period Bob Hunt also co-authored an article on the Commercial Code which appears in 16 *LAW & CONTEMP. PROB.* 1 (1951) and two book reviews appearing at 35 *CORNELL L.Q.* 691 (1950) and 35 *IOWA L. REV.* 730 (1950).

3. Schiff Hardin & Waite had then and continues to have an attraction for teachers and scholars of law. Sidney K. Schiff taught at the University of Chicago. John J. Waldron was a professor of law and member of the faculty at Loyola University, Chicago. Milton H. Cohen, after serving as director of the public utilities division of the Securities and Exchange Commission and later, in the Kennedy Administration, as director of the Special Study of the Securities Laws, was a visiting professor of law at Harvard Law School. The firm is also proud to identify among its former lawyers two other law school

early sixties the practice of Schiff Hardin & Waite included the representation of a number of electric and gas utilities.⁴ At that time, retail natural gas service was being extended to smaller urban areas in the midwest. Bob Hunt appeared in more than thirty certificate and rate proceedings before the Federal Power Commission, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the Illinois Commerce Commission. By inclination he was well suited for the role of advocate of low-cost gas rates to ultimate consumers and opponent of high gas transmission rates to regional utilities. His presentations were recognized and respected by leading lawyers and law firms throughout the country who were involved in the development of important precedents in the fields of utility and administrative law.

In a metropolitan center such as Chicago, zoning law is an important aspect of real estate law practice. Bob Hunt developed a specialty in this area. His co-authored article, *Variations, Exceptions and Special Uses*, which appeared in the University of Illinois Law Forum,⁵ is a leading exposition of Illinois law on this subject. Hunt was named a member of the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals where his presence added prestige to the work of that tribunal.

Bob Hunt's background made him an ideal appellate lawyer.⁶ In addition to his heavy administrative practice, he appeared in a number of cases before the Illinois Supreme and Appellate Courts.⁷ His written and oral

deans: Dean Charles Murdock, of Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois and Dean David Ruder, of Northwestern University.

When Bob Hunt came to the practice of law he joined a firm of lawyers with differing educational experiences and frequently conflicting political and economic views. In addition, the firm always has been composed of men and women of different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Ideological differences were understood and respected. The firm has recognized that its strength comes from its diversity. Because of its diversity and openness in hiring practices, Schiff Hardin & Waite was well positioned to face the challenges and changes in the profession which occurred during the sixties. Its lawyers were among the founders of the Chicago Council of Lawyers and many other legal aid and pro bono projects. For example, Alexander Polikoff withdrew from private practice during the sixties to help found Businessmen and Professional Men for the Public Interest and to direct litigation initiated to achieve open and expanded housing for the poor. *See, e.g., Hills v. Gautreaux*, 425 U.S. 283 (1976). Gary Palm joined the faculty of the University of Chicago to direct the activities of Mendel Clinic, which provides free legal services to the poor and serves as a practice clinic for students.

4. Illinois Power Company, Northwestern Public Service Company, North Shore Gas Company, and Northern Natural Gas Company

5. 1954 U. ILL. L.F. 213.

6. During this period trial work was directed by Albert E. Hallett, later an Illinois Circuit Court Judge and Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, and by James B. O'Shaugnessy, who had been a professor of law at Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois.

7. *Kitzer v. Rice*, 90 Ill. App. 2d 72, 234 N.E.2d 115 (1967); *Nupnau v. Hink*, 53 Ill. App. 2d 81, 203 N.E.2d 63 (1964), 53 Ill. 2d 285, 211 N.E.2d 379 (1965); *Kotrick v. County of DuPage*, 19 Ill. 2d 181, 166 N.E.2d 601 (1960).

presentations were thoughtful and inspiring. He was critical of his work and helpful in the review of the efforts of others. His appellate briefs were models for other Illinois reviewing court cases in which the firm appeared.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society published a book by Bob Hunt entitled *Law and Locomotives: The Impact of the Railroad on Wisconsin Law in the Nineteenth Century*. Bob Hunt conducted the research with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to the University of Wisconsin for the study of legal economic history. Bob Hunt's contribution was selected for the Everest Prize.

The flyleaf of *Law and Locomotives* contains the following quotation selected by the author:

It should be the aim of a wise man, neither to mock, nor to bewail, nor to denounce men's action, but to understand them.

Baruch De Spinoza, *Political Treatise*.

Bob Hunt achieved this aim throughout his years of practice. He was a caring and respected practitioner. His return to the teaching and study of law at the University of Washington in 1966 was a natural progression in his distinguished career. He is a credit to those with whom he practiced law.